

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 15, 2004. Claims 27, 29, 33-35, and 37-43 are presented for examination, of which Claims 27 and 37 are in independent form. Claims 62 and 63 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Claims 27 and 37 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 27, 29, 33-35, and 37-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,675,358 (*Bullock et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,857,059 (*Yamagishi*) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,928,300 (*Ogawa et al.*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 27 and 37 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 27 is an image processing system. The image processing includes an image pickup apparatus and an information processing apparatus. The image pickup apparatus includes an image pickup unit adapted to pick up an image. The information processing apparatus includes an interface, a detector, a memory unit, a display unit, and a controller. The interface is adapted to detachably connect the image pickup apparatus, and the detector is adapted to detect that the image pickup apparatus is connected. The memory unit is adapted to store images which were picked up by the image pickup apparatus. The display unit effects display of the images picked up by the image pickup apparatus. The controller is

communicatively coupled to the detector, the memory unit, and the display unit. The controller is adapted to set a connection flag in accordance with a detection result by the detector, and automatically to switch between a mode for displaying sequential images from the interface on the display unit and a mode for displaying the image from the memory unit on the display unit, in accordance with a state of the connection flag which is set.

Among other important features of Claim 27 is that the controller, communicatively coupled to the detector, the memory unit, and the display unit, sets a connection flag in accordance with a detection result by the detector, and automatically switches between a mode for displaying sequential images from the interface on the display unit and a mode for displaying the image from the memory unit on the display unit, in accordance with a state of the connection flag which is set. That is, the information processing apparatus of the image processing system automatically switches over to a source of an image to be displayed, in accordance with the state of the set connection flag.

Bullock et al., as has been discussed previously, relates to a computer control and user interface of an instant digital image capture device. The *Bullock et al.* apparatus controls and displays image information seen by the image capture device together with images which have been captured and stored upon actuation of the device. A viewfinder window is located in a capture device window, which also includes a variety of push buttons, some of which control the image capture device, while others control the way in which the captured images are displayed on the computer screen. In response to a user command to capture an image, the image is displayed adjacent to the image capture window. As the user continues to capture images, frames are displayed as long as the computer has adequate temporary storage. The user interface also allows the user to stack

a set of images into a single object in the workspace. Images may be manipulated within the stack, discarded, modified, or changed between stacks of image objects.

Bullock et al. merely displays an image picked up by an image pickup apparatus 118 on a screen 114 of an information processing apparatus 100, when the information processing apparatus 100 is connected to the image pickup apparatus 118. Also, the *Bullock et al.* apparatus stores images into the information processing apparatus 100 and produces a capture device window 175 when an icon on the desktop of the information processing apparatus 100 is clicked (column 8, lines 52-65, and Figure 19A). That is, a display mode for displaying an image sent from the image pickup apparatus 118 is executed only when instructed by a user.

At page 5 of the Office Action, it is specifically conceded that *Bullock et al.* fails to disclose a controller adapted to set a connection flag in accordance with a detection result of the detector. The Office Action cites *Yamagishi* as overcoming the deficiencies of *Bullock et al.*, and asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify *Bullock et al.* by the teachings of *Yamagishi* in order to let the user recognize the status of the connection, thereby letting the user select the desired mode for displaying an image.

Yamagishi relates to an information recording apparatus to which a plurality of recording media having different recording forms can be attached and which is arranged to record image information on such recording media. *Yamagishi* depicts in Figure 4 detecting a kind of a recording medium (hard disk and memory card) connected to an interface of a camera. Once the *Yamagishi* device detects the kind of recording medium that is connected, a recording medium discrimination flag is set in accordance with the detection result (column 7, lines 63-67). However, nothing has been found in *Yamagishi*

that would teach or suggest setting a connection flag in accordance with a detection result of the detector, and automatically switching between a mode for displaying sequential images from the interface on the display unit and a mode for displaying the image from the memory unit on the display unit, in accordance with a state of the connection flag which is set, as recited in Claim 27.

Ogawa et al. relates to a video phone with a television camera that is detachable in such a manner that the operation of the video phone is facilitated. As depicted in Figure 3, a video phone unit 1 has a TV camera 6 which is connected to the video phone unit 1 by a signal cable 8. The TV camera 6 is detachable from a camera accommodation section 7, connected to video phone unit 1, through the signal cable 8. The detachment and attachment of the TV camera 6 from the video phone unit 1 is detected by a sensor 9, which sets a flag accordingly (Figure 5, and column 4, line 60, to column 5, line 25). The set flag is used to determine whether or not an image from the TV camera 6 should be displayed through inversion processing (column 5, lines 1-25). However, nothing has been found in *Ogawa et al.* that would teach or suggest setting a connection flag in accordance with a detection result of the detector, and automatically switching between a mode for displaying sequential images from the interface on the display unit and a mode for displaying the image from the memory unit on the display unit, in accordance with a state of the connection flag which is set, as recited in Claim 27.

Accordingly Applicant submits that a combination of *Bullock et al.*, *Yamagishi*, and *Ogawa et al.*, assuming *arguendo* that any such combination would be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest the system of Claim 27, of a controller, communicatively coupled to the detector, the memory unit, and the display unit, that sets a

connection flag in accordance with a detection result of the detector, and that automatically switches between a mode for displaying sequential images from the interface on the display unit and a mode for displaying the image from the memory unit on the display unit, in accordance with a state of the connection flag which is set.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 27 is clearly patentable over the cited prior art.

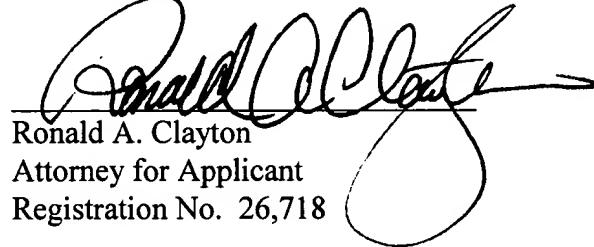
Independent Claim 37 includes a feature similar to that discussed above in connection with Claim 27. Accordingly, Claim 37 is believed to be patentable over *Bullock et al.*, *Yamagishi*, and *Ogawa et al.* for reasons substantially similar as those discussed above in connection with Claim 27.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and are, therefore, believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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